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Remarks

Reconsideration of the above-captioned application is respectfully requested. All pending claims (1-8 and 13-24) have been rejected as being anticipated by Rajasekharan, the purpose of which can be characterized as providing a digital rights management (DRM) system to prevent unauthorized playing of music that is downloaded for sale. Because it is a DRM system, Rajasekharan necessarily requires use of the player/user ID, as indeed is disclosed in, e.g., paragraph 0031. Further, because it is a DRM system, Rajasekharan prevents unauthorized playing, not unauthorized compression or recording contrary to the allegation in the Office Action and in contrast to the present claims.

With this discussion of Rajasekharan in mind, the claims as amended now distinguish over the reference in at least two respects. First, the claims are directed to preventing unauthorized compression or recording, whereas the only thing Rajasekharan teaches is preventing unauthorized playing. Second, as now amended the claims make clear that unlike a DRM system such as Rajasekharan which must explicitly teach use of a user identification in the test process, the present invention does not use any user identification.

The Examiner is cordially invited to telephone the undersigned at (619) 338-8075 for any reason which would advance the instant application to allowance.

1033-08.AM3

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Respectfully submitted,



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MARKED UP VERSION SHOWING CHANGES

C1
 1. (amended) A computer-based system for inhibiting unauthorized recording of digitized music, comprising:

a cryptography module including logic executable by a provider computer, the logic including, for at least a segment of the music, obtaining an authorized digital signature, and then associating the authorized digital signature with the music, the authorized digital signature being obtained solely by hashing the segment with a cryptographic hash function, no user identification being used; and

a consumer module associated with a consumer music player and executable thereby to undertake logic including processing at least the segment of the music to obtain a test digital signature, and, only if the test digital signature matches the authorized digital signature, permitting at least one of: compression of the music, and recording the music, on the consumer music player.

C2
 7. (amended) A computer program storage device including a program of instructions for determining whether a request to compress and record digitized music should be honored, the program of instructions including:

computer readable code means for processing at least one segment of the music to obtain a test digital signature by applying a cryptographic hash solely to the segment without applying a user identification;

computer readable code means for receiving an authorized digital signature associated with the music; and

computer readable code means for permitting compression and recording of the music only if at least the test digital signature matches the authorized digital signature.

C3
 13. (amended) A method for facilitating the compression and storage, on a personal music player, of digitized music received on a disk in an authorized transaction, comprising the acts of:

recording the music on the disk along with at least one authorized digital signature derived [from the music] solely by applying a cryptographic hash to the music without recording a user identification on the disk;

receiving the disk;

engaging the disk with a personal music player compression device;

deriving at least one test digital signature from the music; and

compressing the music and recording the music on the personal music player only if the test digital signature matches the authorized digital signature.

C4
 21. (amended) A computer program storage device including a program of instructions for determining whether a request to compress and record digitized music should be honored, the program of instructions undertaking method acts comprising:

processing at least one segment of the music and only the segment to obtain a test digital signature;

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C4
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receiving an authorized digital signature associated with the music; and
permitting compression and recording of the music only if at least the test digital signature
matches the authorized digital signature.

C5

23. (amended) A method for facilitating the compression and storage, on a personal music
player, of digitized music received on a disk in an authorized transaction, comprising the acts of:
engaging the disk with a personal music player compression device;
deriving at least one test digital signature solely from the music; and
compressing the music and recording the music on the personal music player only if the at
least one test digital signature matches at least one digital signature received on the disk without
checking for a user identification.

1033-G8.AM13